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(U) REF: JN2511081498 AMMAN AL-'ARAB AL-YAWM IN ARABIC 3 NOV 98 P 11 /// TOWARD THE ARABS.

(U) SOURCE: AMMAN AL-'ARAB AL-YAWM IN ARABIC 3 NOV 98 P 11 TEXT:

(U) 16 JANUARY 1991 (SUBTITLE) I HAD AN AFTERNOON NAP KNOWING THAT A LONG SLEEPLESS NIGHT LAY AHEAD, A NIGHT THAT COULD SEE THE EVIL FORCES LAUNCH AN ATTACK AGAINST OUR COUNTRY, BRUSHING ASIDE THE EFFORTS THAT RUSSIA HAD BEEN MAKING TO FIND A PEACEFUL WAY OUT. IN THE EARLY EVENING, I WOKE UP

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FROM A DREADFUL DREAM IN WHICH I HAD TO CLEAR MANY OBSTACLES, BUT AT CLEARING EACH HURDLE I HAD TO CLEAR YET ANOTHER ONE. EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, I FOUND MYSELF IN A GREEN OASIS THAT REMINDED ME OF ONE I SAW ON MY FIRST VISIT TO TUNISIA BACK IN 1976, WHEN I HAD RETURNED TO BAGHDAD ALONG WITH A TUNISIAN BRIDE. I FELT THAT THE TWO OASES WERE PARTS OF THE SAME ARAB HOMELAND. RETURNING FROM TUNISIA WITH A TUNISIAN BRIDE I FELT THAT I HAD CROSSED ARTIFICIAL BORDERS THAT SEPARATE OUR ARAB COUNTRIES. I FELT THAT THAT HALLOWED BOND HAD FULFILLED A UNIONIST ASPIRATION. (MORE) 3 NOV

[redacted] I PICKED UP THE PHONE TO CALL MY WIFE AND INFORM HER THAT I WAS (b)(3)
SENDING MY CAR TO PICK UP OUR SONS AHMAD AND MUHAMMAD IF THEY WERE WILLING TO COME OVER. AFTER THE PHONE CALL, MAJOR THAMIR 'ALI, COMMANDER OF THE FIRST CAMOUFLAGE LEGION WAS WAITING TO SEE ME. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THE CAMOUFLAGE PLAN, AFTER WHICH A MESSENGER CAME TO INFORM ME THAT THERE WAS NO PROBLEM IN REGARD TO THE FAILURE OF BIG CABLES TO MATCH THE BASES OF THE LAUNCHERS. WE EXAMINED THE PROBLEMS AND CAME UP WITH QUICK ANSWERS. WE WERE RACING AGAINST TIME. AT 1800, THE PHONE THAT LINKED MY OFFICE DIRECTLY TO ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S BODYGUARDS RANG. THAT WAS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE LINK WAS WORKING, WHICH THE TEST SHOWED IT WAS. MY SONS MUHAMMAD AND AHMAD ARRIVED AT THE HEADQUARTERS. ON THAT DAY THE NUMBER OF THE MEN UNDER MY COMMAND HAD BECOME 10,000. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HEADQUARTERS AND ITS BATTERY, WHICH WERE TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT AND AN INTELLIGENCE ONE DURING THE WAR, THE ROCKET BATTLE SYSTEM CONSISTED OF THE ROCKET BRIGADE 223 WHICH COMPRISED OF AL-HUSAYN ROCKET AND IRAQI BASES. IT WAS MADE UP OF THREE ROCKET BATTALIONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS NOT FITTED WITH LAUNCHING EQUIPMENT, AN INCOMPLETE TECHNICAL BATTALION, A LIGHT ANTI-AIR BATTALION, A METEOROLOGICAL BATTERY, A TECHNICAL REPAIR SHOP, A DEFENSE DETACHMENT, AND A CHEMICAL COMPANY IN ADDITION TO THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS BATTERY. THE BRIGADE WAS UNDER THE COMMAND OF COLONEL AHMAD JASIM. IN FACT, THE NUMBER OF THE BATTERIES UNDER HIS COMMAND THAT WERE IN WORKING ORDER WERE FOUR PLUS TWO BACKUP LAUNCHERS. ALSO UNDER HIS COMMAND WERE ROCKET BRIGADE 224 WHICH WAS MADE UP OF AL-HUSAYN ROCKETS AND FOREIGN-MADE LAUNCHERS THAT HAD BEEN READJUSTED TO ACCOMMODATE THE HOME-MADE AL-HUSAYN ROCKETS. THE ROCKET BRIGADE WAS FORMED ALONG THE SAME LINES AS BRIGADE 223 BUT THE FORMER'S UNITS WERE COMPLETE. INDEED, A 10TH BATTERY WAS ADDED TO IT, HAVING BEEN DETACHED FROM THE COMBAT TRAINING UNIT AFFILIATED TO THE ROCKET SCHOOL. THAT BRIGADE WAS COMMANDED BY COL. 'ADNAN ANJAD. THERE WAS ALSO THE ROCKET BRIGADE 225 WHICH INCLUDED AL-RA'D ROCKET BATTALIONS, LUNA, WHICH CONSISTED OF FOUR BATTALIONS AND A METEOROLOGICAL BATTERY AND A REPAIR WORKSHOP. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOURTH BATTALION, IT OPERATED IN THE KUWAIT SECTOR. IT CONSISTED OF 36 LAUNCHERS IN 12 BATTERIES. THERE WAS ALSO THE ROCKET BRIGADE 226 AND THAT CONSISTED OF AL-TARIQ ROCKET BRIGADE, WHICH, IN TURN, WAS MADE UP OF THREE BATTALIONS AND A METEOROLOGICAL BATTERY AND A REPAIR WORKSHOP IN THE KUWAIT SECTOR AND IT HAD 24 LAUNCHERS DISTRIBUTED AROUND SIX BATTERIES. THERE WAS THE FIRST MAGHAWIR BRIGADE OF THE FOURTH CORPS. THEN THERE WAS THE MAINTENANCE GROUND-TO-GROUND ROCKETS COMMAND WHICH INCLUDED THREE MAINTENANCE UNITS AND THE ROCKET TEST DETACHMENT IN AL-ANBAR SPACE RESEARCH BASE. THERE WERE ALSO THE ROCKET BATTALION 227, "ABABIL," THAT HAD BEEN FORMED RECENTLY AND PROTECTION UNITS THAT WERE ATTACHED TO OUR UNITS AND UNDER OUR COMMAND. ALSO UNDER OUR COMMAND WERE THE OPERATIONAL ROCKET CONTROL CENTER THAT WAS ACTIVE ALONGSIDE THE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY. I

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CREATED TWO PROVISIONAL LEGIONS THAT WERE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAMOUFLAGE AND THE GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES SCHOOLS. WE SETTLED FOR THE FOLLOWING LINEUP OF FORCES SHORTLY BEFORE THE AGGRESSION WAS LAUNCHED : THE THIRD CORPS-THE THIRD BATTALION MINUS A BATTERY FROM BRIGADE 225, THE FIRST BATTALION MINUS A BATTERY FROM BRIGADE 226. THE THIRD CORPS-THE FIRST BATTALION MINUS A BATTERY FROM BRIGADE 225, THE SECOND BATTALION FROM BRIGADE 226. THE SIXTH CORPS,THE THIRD BATTALION FROM BRIGADE 225 AND THE THIRD BATTERY FROM BRIGADE 225 AND THE SECOND BATTERY FROM BRIGADE 225. THE SEVENTH CORPS,THE SECOND BATTERY AND THE THIRD BATTERY FROM BRIGADE 225 AND THE FIRST BATTERY OF THE FIRST BATTALION FROM BRIGADE 226. THESE WERE TO BE COMMANDED BY THE OPERATIONAL ROCKET CONTROL CENTER TO BACK UP THE RESERVE FORCES-THE SECOND BATTALION MINUS ONE BATTERY FROM BRIGADE 225. SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT I WAS IN MY ABOVEGROUND HEADQUARTERS, TO WHICH WAS ATTACHED AN UNDERGROUND OPERATIONS SHELTER. I HELD A SMALL CALCULATOR CHECKING SOME FIGURES. IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT, I HAD TIME TO GO OVER WHAT I HAD DONE DURING THE DAY AND TO REVIEW ACTION PLANS FOR STRATEGIC ROCKETS. THE ACTIONS THAT HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT REMAINED CONSTANTLY ON MY MIND: 1--THE FORMATION OF NEW UNITS; NAMELY ROCKET BRIGADE 223; THE FIRST ROCKET MAINTENANCE UNIT WHICH HAD TO BE ADDED TO SUCH STRATEGIC UNITS AS ROCKET BRIGADE 224 AND THE TECHNICAL BATTALION AND THE COMMAND OF THE MAINTENANCE UNIT AND THE ROCKET BRIGADE 225 AND THE ROCKET BRIGADE 226. THAT WAS TO ENSURE A FLEXIBLE WORK PATTERN AND IN LINE WITH PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS THAT WE BEGIN TRAINING AND PREPARING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ARMS PROCUREMENT IS COMPLETE. (MORE) 3 NOV [redacted] (MORE) END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED (b)(3)

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